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CLAIMS:

1. A flexible container comprising opposed front and back walls sealed together proximate to their edges to define an internal space, a pair of tear-limiting strips applied to a surface of each wall so that the strips coincide substantially on the opposed walls, defining corresponding tear paths along each surface.
2. The container of claim 1 wherein the strips of each pair are spaced from about 0.1mm to about 6mm apart.
3. The container of claim 2 wherein the strips of each pair are spaced from about 1mm-2mm apart.
4. The container of claim 3 wherein the strips of each pair are spaced from about 1.2mm to 1.8mm apart.
5. The container of any one of the preceding claims wherein the strips of each pair are located to be substantially parallel to each other.
6. The container of any one of the preceding claims wherein the strips comprise sealable strips.
7. The container of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the strips are self-adhesive.
8. The container of any one of the preceding claims wherein the strips are about 1mm to about 5mm in breadth.
9. The container of claim 8 wherein the strips are about 1.5 – 2.5mm in breadth.
10. The container of any one of the preceding claims wherein the walls comprise a laminate material.

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11. The container of any one of the preceding claims wherein the strips are all located on the outer surface of the walls.
12. The container of any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the strips are all located on the inner surface of the walls.
13. The container of any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein one pair of strips is located on an internal wall surface and the other on an external wall surface.
14. The container of claim 10 having a pair of strips located within the laminate material.
15. A flexible-walled container having opposed back and front walls, each having a respective top edge, the walls being sealed together proximate to the respective top edges defining an internal space between them, and tear barrier means provided on or within each wall, defining a tear path located to be spaced from at least a part of the top edge thereof.
16. The container of claim 15 wherein the tear barrier means is manufactured from a material more tear-resistant than the material of the walls.
17. A container as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tear path extends from one end to the other across the back and front walls.
18. A container as claimed in claim 15 or claim 16 wherein the tear path extends from an end of a wall to the top edge.
19. A container as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 18 wherein the or each element is located between adjacent layers in a laminate wall.

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20. A method of forming a wall material for a tearable flexible container comprising the steps of providing a flexible film for forming a wall of the container
providing a tear barrier element having substantially greater tear resistance than
5 the wall film,
locating the element on the film to define a tear path thereon, and
fixing the element to the film.
21. A method of manufacturing a sealable bag comprising the steps of providing a
10 flexible film and forming it into a container defining an internal space bounded
by respective front and back walls, and applying a tear barrier strip to the walls
to define a bounded tear path on each of the front and back walls.
22. A method according to claim 21 comprising applying a pair of strips located to
15 be substantially parallel to each other, the strips having substantially greater
tear resistance than the flexible film.
23. A method according to claim 22 wherein the strips are located to be spaced
from about 0.1mm to about 6mm apart.
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24. A method of manufacturing a flexible walled container comprising the steps of
providing first and second films, providing tear barrier material in strip form,
applying the tear barrier material in paired strips to each film so as to define a
substantially coinciding tear path on each and arranging the films in opposition
25 to form a container comprising substantially coinciding tear paths on each wall.
25. A method according to claim 24 comprising applying the paired strips to be
spaced from about 0.1mm to about 6mm apart.
- 30 26. A method according to claim 24 or claim 25 wherein the films comprise a
laminate of alufoil and polyethylene.

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27. A method according to any one of claims 24 to 26 wherein the strips comprise a tape of polyester, polyethylene or polypropylene.